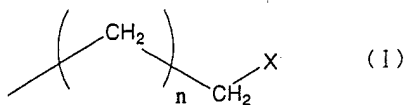


Amendment to the claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims

1. (Currently amended) A process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers characterized by subjecting a polymer having a side chain containing a leaving group X represented by the structural formula (I):

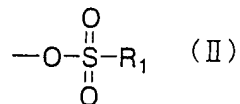


[wherein X is a leaving group, and n is ~~an integer of 0~~
~~to 6~~] to substitution of X with an acylthio group, and
then oxidizing the acylthio group into a sulfonic group.

2. (Cancelled)

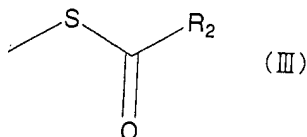
3. (Currently amended) The process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,

wherein a leaving group X is Cl, Br, I or a substituent represented by the following formula (ii):



[wherein R₁ is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a perfluoro(C₁-C₃)alkyl group or an aryl group]7.

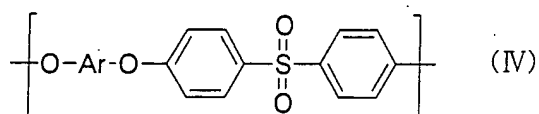
4. (Currently amended) The process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers according to any of claims 1 ~~to~~ or 3, wherein an acylthio group represented by the following formula (III):



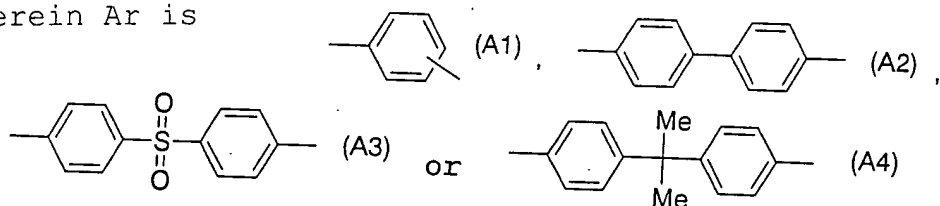
[wherein R₂ is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms or an aryl group]7.

5. (Currently amended) The process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers according to any one of

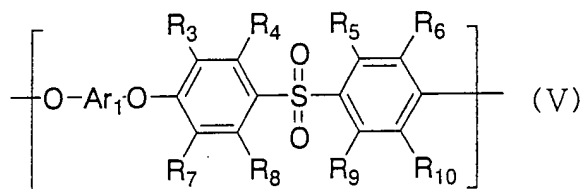
claims 1 ~~to~~ 4 or 3, wherein the backbone structure of the polymer having a side chain (I) is a polysulfone structure represented by the following formula (IV):



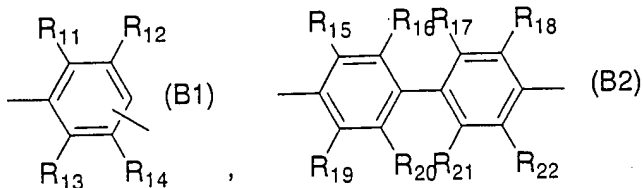
wherein Ar is

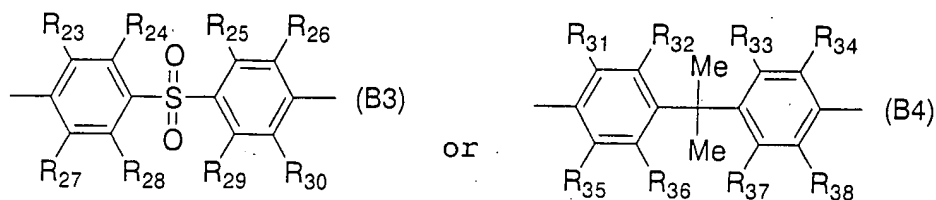


6. (Original) A process for the production of sulfomethylated polysulfone, represented by the following formula (V):

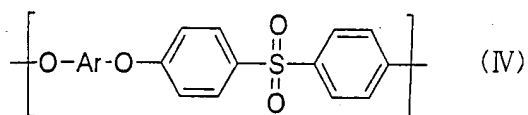


[wherein Ar₁ is

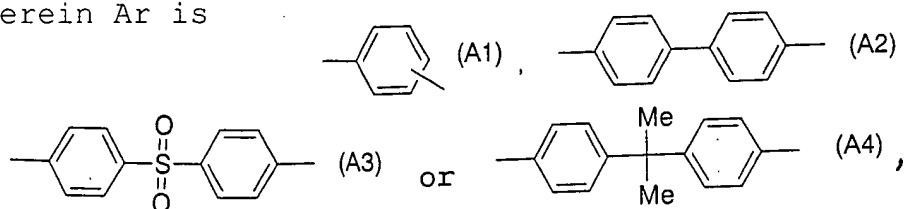




R_3 - R_{38} independently is a hydrogen atom or a sulfomethyl group], characterized by subjecting an aromatic ring of a polysulfone polymers represented by the following formula (IV) :

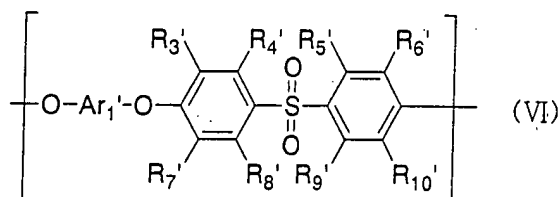


[wherein Ar is

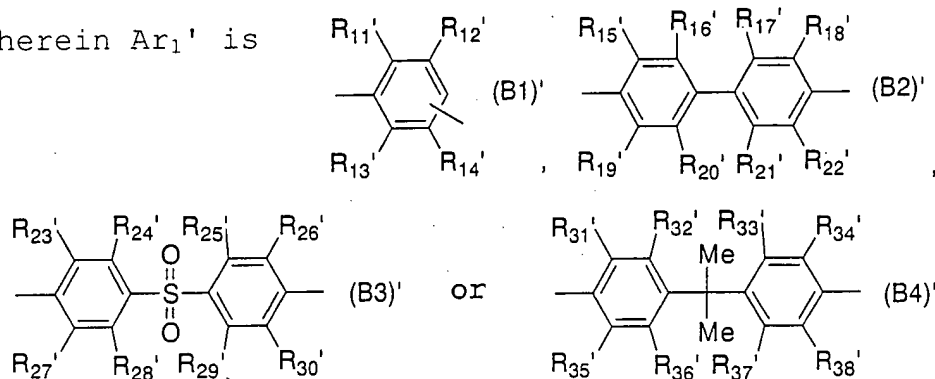


to (a) chloromethylation, (b) then subjecting the formed chlorine to acetylthiolation, followed by further oxidation to be converted into a sulfonic group.

7. (Original) An acetylthiomethyl-containing polysulfone, represented by the following formula (VI):

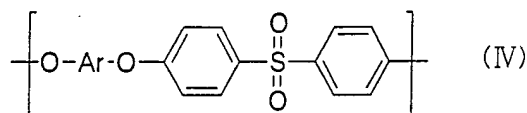


wherein Ar_1' is



R_3' to R_{38}' independently is a hydrogen atom, or $\text{CH}_2\text{S}-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{Me}$

8. (New) The process for the production of sulfoalkyl-containing polymers according to claim 4, wherein the backbone structure of the polymer having a side chain (I) is a polysulfone structure represented by the following formula (IV):



wherein Ar is

